



## Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division

### 2006 SPRING TURKEY LEFTOVER LICENSES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Q: Why are leftover spring turkey licenses now being sold to the general public without application?***

Wild turkey populations in Michigan are thriving, and there has been considerable public support for this change for some time. However, the decision to offer 2006 leftover licenses to the general public was prompted by the Michigan Legislature. The DNR was directed to sell these licenses per a legislative requirement in the DNR budget. Selling these unclaimed licenses does provide financial support for hunting and natural resource management in Michigan.

Several important benefits occur with this change:

- Hunting opportunity is expanded. License quotas within each hunt unit ensure that the quality of these hunts is not compromised.
- Spring turkey leftover license policy is now consistent with the fall turkey season.
- Applicants retain an advantage in purchasing leftover licenses during the initial one-week period that leftovers are available for sale.

Given the benefits and long-standing public support for the change, decision-makers felt it was important to make the change for the 2006 season without any delay.

*The full benefit of the new regulations will be realized in the 2007 season, while 2006 will be a year of transition. In 2007, prospective hunters will have the choice to apply for a limited-quota hunt, or wait until March to purchase a leftover license, if available. However, there is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any given hunt unit.*

***Q: Hunters who applied during the Jan 1 – Feb 1 application period paid a \$4 application fee for a license that may now be available without application. Will application fees be refunded?***

The DNR is authorized by the legislature to charge an application fee to offset the costs of the application and drawing process. These costs have already been incurred for the spring turkey drawing. Application fees are not scheduled to be refunded due to this change in procedure.

The \$4 application fee does provide applicants with important benefits. Applicants have an earlier opportunity to reserve a license for themselves, greater choice of hunts, and an exclusive period in which to purchase leftover licenses. In future seasons, spring turkey hunters will need to weigh the benefits of applying against the risks of not applying. Those who rely solely on the availability of leftover licenses risk the possibility that their hunt choice will be sold out.

***Q: Why is Hunt 234 available only to those who apply or purchase the license during the Jan 1 – Feb 1 application period?***

For quota-limited hunts, hunting quality is not impacted by selling leftover licenses to non-applicants. License quotas control hunting participation and reduce the possibility of hunter interference. However, Hunt 234 has no quota. To retain some control of hunting participation, Hunt 234 will continue to be available only to those who apply or purchase the license during the application period.

***Q: Hunt 0301 (Turkey Management Unit ZZ) has a license quota of 65,000 private land licenses. Isn't this excessive? Will hunters interfere with each other if a large number of leftover licenses are sold for Unit ZZ?***

Unit ZZ consists of 38 counties and encompasses approximately 24,550 square miles, and is our largest turkey management unit with a license quota. At 65,000 licenses, hunt 0301 allows for about 2.6 licenses per square mile – if all licenses were sold. This is comparable to other limited-quota turkey management units. In addition, the 0301 license is only valid on private land, where each landowner controls participation on their land.

***Q: Who should hunters contact for more information or to discuss concerns they may have regarding the spring turkey season?***

Regulations are reviewed and modified on an ongoing basis. Individuals who would like to provide input to the regulations process may discuss their concerns with a local DNR biologist, or provide comments during public appearances at a Natural Resources Commission meeting.

For questions related specifically to leftover spring turkey licenses or the drawing process, individuals may also write or call the Wildlife Division at the following address/phone number:

**Wildlife Division  
ATTN: Hunt Drawings - Spring Turkey  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30030  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Ph. 517-373-3904**

Phone calls and letters may be directed to other Wildlife staff as appropriate (turkey biologist, drawing coordinator, manager, etc).